

Mr. Doull of the office he held, but the court would recollect that they had determined, that all works above 50l. were to be done by special contract, consequently the services of Mr. Doull would not be required. The period which he would propose for the change was at Lady-day next.

The court then proceeded with the resolutions; the first moved by Mr. Le Breton, and seconded by Mr. Wood, was, "that the present surveyors' department is inefficient, and entails an unnecessary expense upon the rate-payers."

Mr. Donaldson said he did not understand the connection of the two questions in the proposition. Mr. Le Breton thought it was very intelligible. The department was not efficient, and more expensive than necessary. He complained of the very unsatisfactory manner in which the answers from the surveyors to the court were given, and he thought it obvious to every commissioner, that both Mr. Dowley and Mr. Doull, were inefficient officers. Besides the failure in the large sewer in the Gloucester-road, there were other failures, the sewer in the Harrow-road for example, and he thought it perfectly disgraceful to see the quantity of cart loads of soil, brought up from a sewer close to the office in Church-street, St. Ann's.

After a considerable discussion, Mr. Le Breton and Mr. Wood, agreed to strike out the words "and entails an unnecessary expense upon the rate-payers."

The chairman said he entertained very strongly the opinion, that the surveyors department was very inefficient, but not on the same grounds as Mr. Le Breton. As to Mr. Dowley, he saw the progress of age, and how frequently he was subject to fits of indisposition brought on and aggravated by exposure and accidents on the works. Until an able, energetic, active officer was placed at the head of the works, who should be a properly educated engineer, they would be in an unsatisfactory position, and he was satisfied that the court ought no longer to allow their works to be in the hands of a decayed functionary, but to be at once placed in the hands of a vigorous man. At the present time, the court had no reports of works required, and without disparaging the clerk, his opinion was, that the chief officer ought to be the surveyor, and when that office was properly filled, the court would no longer be involved in so much error and expense. He thought the court was much indebted to Mr. Le Breton for stepping forward and stopping the court. It was always desirable, in his opinion, to promote a skilful officer, but never to make the inferior officer to be entitled, as of course, to that promotion. He thought that as the court had not the power to grant Mr. Dowley a superannuation allowance, they might still retain him as consulting surveyor.

The motion as amended was then carried *nem. con.* Mr. Leslie moved, that the names be taken down of the commissioners who had voted. The chairman ruled, that as there were no dissentients, the bye-law did not operate. Mr. Leslie stated, that he had taken down the names of the few commissioners of the number present who had voted.

Mr. Le Breton (seconded by Mr. Knight) then moved his second resolution. "That after Lady-day the services of Mr. Doull be dispensed with, and his office abolished." This was ultimately turned into a notice of motion for another court.

Mr. Le Breton then moved, "That a surveyor be appointed at an early day, to be fixed by the court, to be associated with the present surveyor Mr. Dowley," and Mr. Cumberland seconded the motion.

Mr. T. L. Donaldson wished to know how the court was to proceed to construct a new staff until the present officers were disposed of. Capt. Bague said it was impossible after what the chairman had said of Mr. Dowley for the court to continue him; relative to his inefficiency, a variety of observations had been made. The court must therefore strike at the head of the department. If Mr. Dowley heard what has been said of him at this court, he could not stand his ground; why not give him a pension, and allow him to retire into the bosom of his family? He did not see how it was possible for the court to continue Mr. Dowley in his office.

Mr. R. Gunter wished to know whether the

court had or had not the power to grant pensions.

Mr. Donaldson thought that Mr. Dowley might be retained by the court as a consulting surveyor at 200l. a year. The court would not require the whole of his services. That would be a legal mode of rendering him some assistance. Considerations of justice to the individual must have their weight, but justice due to the public must also be taken into account; he thought the court should appoint a chief engineer, and that Mr. Dowley should be the consulting officer. They ought not to forget that his best days had been devoted to the service of the commissioners.

Mr. Donaldson then moved an amendment, seconded by Mr. Allison, to the effect "that a new chief surveyor should be appointed, but that Mr. Dowley should be retained as consulting surveyor, at a salary of 200l. per annum." Carried by 13 to 1. Mr. Le Breton then moved, and Mr. Donaldson seconded, "that there be no other than the consulting surveyor in addition to the chief surveyor, to be hereafter appointed." Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Leslie now hoped the court would determine how the business of the commission was to go on. He had refused to take a part in these extraordinary proceedings; he wanted to know what was to be done. The court as a Court of Record had passed orders, declaring that the surveyors' department was inefficient, and had virtually dismissed Mr. Dowley as head surveyor at 400l. per annum, and made him only a consulting surveyor, whose occasional services when required were to be had for 200l. a year. The court had also passed another order, that there should be no other than a chief and a consulting surveyor; they had thus summarily dismissed Mr. Doull, the assistant surveyor. He wished to know what these two surveyors, Messrs. Dowley and Doull, had been doing to meet with such a punishment; what new light had so suddenly broken in upon the court? Had they said too much or too little to the secret committee, whose laborious investigations into the allegations against the commissioners contained in his pamphlet, were to have closed last Wednesday, the whole documents having been previously furnished from the surveyors' department by Messrs. Dowley and Doull, and having, as reported, been in the possession of the secret committee for some time past. What would the Secretary of State think of the proceedings? (having been informed in reply to his communication, that all the documents were received, and the report was being prepared) if he should hear that both the surveyors were now dismissed?

The chairman said he hoped it would go forth to the public that he said, that the object of the special court was to take the whole scope and bearing of the subject into its consideration, but that the result of the resolutions they might come to, should be brought before the court a second time for its sanction. Mr. Leslie said that that might be the opinion of the chairman, but it was not law. Who ever heard of a court of record passing its orders in such a manner. The orders passed this day were absolute. They were not mere notices of motion, and the only way the court could now get rid of them was by a notice of motion to rescind them. Mr. Donaldson then rose to move "that the resolutions now come to be not acted upon until sanctioned at the next ordinary meeting of the court," and in so doing complained of Mr. Leslie, who had refused to take any responsibility or vote in the matter. It reminded him of a fairy tale, which used to amuse him very much in his youth, of a fairy sprite, who patted two parties on the back and excited them on until he got them all into confusion, and then sat laughing at them.

Mr. Robert Gunter seconded Mr. Donaldson's amendment; he thought they were only this day considering the subject, and that the proceedings did not authorize them to go to the whole extent of dismissing the officers, but that the next court should sanction them. Captain Bague said, although the ex-chairman of the court and also the ex-chairman of a Board of Guardians were against his views and a dozen other commissioners might be so too, he considered if the Court adopted the present motion it would stultify all its proceedings, and render them ridiculous. The Hon. F. Byng said if that were to be the course of the solemn orders of the court all their proceedings

would become ephemeral and farcical, another body of commissioners might come in without hearing one word of the previous arguments, and overturn the decisions. Mr. Donaldson said he stood there as a public man, for the public good. He did not think that the officers should be affected by what occurred in the committee that day. What was it they said at starting? why, that it was to be a merely deliberative meeting, still it was not to be without results. The motion was carried by 10 to 5. Mr. Donaldson then moved, and Mr. Le Breton seconded, "that the court at its ordinary meeting do revise such bye-laws and standing orders as may on require, in order to carry into effect the said resolutions." Carried *nem. con.* Mr. Le Breton then gave notice that at the next meeting of the court he should move "that from and after Lady-day next the services of the present assistant surveyor, Mr. Doull, be dispensed with, and the office abolished."

A passage in Mr. Farlar's speech, reported in our notice of proceedings on the 7th inst., has given considerable offence to Mr. John White, and that gentleman calls upon us, with an unwise threat, to make some public *amende*. That Mr. White should be angry with Mr. Farlar is perfectly natural; but to be angry with us for simply reporting, in discharge of our duty, what the latter said, is quite incomprehensible. Mr. White should rather be obliged to us, as being the means of informing him faithfully what was said in his absence, and so enabling him to reply, should he think fit to do so.—which by the way, we should not. Personally, we have all due respect for Mr. White (his reputation, we have pleasure in saying it, is far above reach); the tradition of a charge brought against some of his relatives, something that applied to somebody, some long time ago,—belongs to Mr. Farlar, not to us, who were the mere chroniclers of what was said.

#### THE IMPROVEMENT OF OPERATIVES.

SIR,—I am one of that class, whose intellectual improvement you have frequently brought before the public in your valuable journal. The importance of this is ably advocated by your correspondent, Mr. Lewis, in the last number of *THE BUILDER*, who suggests what seems the most direct method of instruction to attain that most desirable object, and if the funds necessary for carrying out his plan could be raised, the system would be of infinite advantage to the young artisan and mechanic. But unfortunately, the interest evinced by you and your correspondents on the subject is, I fear, confined to a very small section of those, who have the power and the means, to assist in the advancement in the intellectual and social scale, of the class from whose labours they derive wealth and influence, with all their concomitant enjoyments. If employers, on the ground of their own interest (and they do not all lack selfishness), would consider the advantages which would accrue to them from a more general intelligence amongst workmen they might be induced to lend a helping hand in the good work—but it is the bones and sinews of the operative to which they appeal, without dreaming of his brain; they value more his possession of superior *brute force* than his mental and intellectual attainments.

It is to be regretted that there is so little mutual good feeling existing between masters and their workmen, but true it is, that the spirit of that type of what an employer ought to be (Monsieur Hardy) is very rarely exhibited amongst us. Consequently we have little hope of assistance from that quarter. What is to be done, must be done at the cost of the working classes themselves, and your paper is doing much towards improving the knowledge of the operative in the styles of ancient and modern architecture, and creating a taste for improvement in the several trades we follow, and the arts generally. I am, Sir, &c.,

Nov. 11th, 1845.

L.

IMPROVEMENTS ON TOWER HILL.—The commissioners of Woods and Forests intend introducing a bill next session to empower them to widen and improve George Street, Tower Hill and to make a carriage thoroughfare from Great Tower Hill, and Trinity Square, to Little Tower Hill.